



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Washington, D.C. 20535

November 9, 1984

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2025 BY SP/SP~~

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.;
CLEARANCE MATTER

~~8/3/94
5668 SL/tdmj
DATE 2025 BY SP/SP
CA#94-0655 HHG~~

This document is unclassified unless indicated
otherwise.

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR., was the subject of an applicant-type investigation covering his adult life for the purpose of the DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE granting him a "Top Secret" security clearance, since he has a need for classified information in his current assignment. This investigation was based upon submission of Standard Form-86, "Security Investigation Data For Sensitive Position," (copy attached), which was completed by FENSTERWALD on May 10, 1984. FENSTERWALD is an attorney and a self-employed historical researcher in the Washington, D.C., area.

FENSTERWALD's birth on August 2, 1921, at Nashville, Tennessee, was verified through records on file at the OFFICE OF VITAL RECORDS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, Nashville, Tennessee.

FENSTERWALD's education from 1938 until 1950 was verified and favorable.

FENSTERWALD's residence since 1972 was verified and favorable.

FENSTERWALD enlisted in the UNITED STATES NAVY (USN) on May 6, 1942, and entered on active duty on September 18, 1942. He was honorably released from active duty on March 1, 1946, and transferred to the USN Reserve. He served in the Reserve, inactive status, from May 6, 1942, until May 17, 1942, and from March 2, 1946, until July 1, 1962, when he was honorably discharged. He had foreign sea/service in the

~~Classified by 7635
Declassify on: OADR~~

77-44206

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 -

(Attn:)

JSD:lal (5)

77-44206-51

ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM

b6 per FBI
b7C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

Asiatic-Pacific area and the European-African-Middle East area. He was awarded numerous medals and commendations. His conduct and efficiency ratings ranged from "Satisfactory" to "Excellent," and there was no record of court-martial or absence without official leave. He was granted a "Secret" security clearance on November 9, 1959, which was terminated at the time of his discharge.

All listed references and associates highly recommended FENSTERWALD for a position of trust and confidence with the U. S. Government. However, FBI records indicate that one of his references, JOHN HENRY FAULK, was suspected of being a member of the COMMUNIST PARTY. FAULK was investigated intermittently from 1942-1953. In 1953, FAULK was interviewed by the FBI and admitted he was a communist sympathizer but denied being a COMMUNIST PARTY member. FAULK has made numerous Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts (FOIPA) requests pertaining to himself. Because of denials of some of the information, FAULK has an administrative claim pending against the Bureau.

It should be noted that FENSTERWALD's [redacted], as well as [redacted], was also listed as a frequent requester to FOIPA for information concerning the FBI investigations of assassinations of prominent individuals. b6 per FBI b7C

All listed employments were verified and favorable.

Appropriate law enforcement agency records were checked and contained no information identifiable with FENSTERWALD's listed relatives. However, records on file at the ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, POLICE DEPARTMENT revealed that on January 20, 1952, FENSTERWALD was cited for speeding 45 miles per hour (MPH) in a 25 MPH zone. On January 21, 1952, the case was disposed when FENSTERWALD pled guilty and was fined \$10 plus court costs. On May 8, 1969, he was cited for allowing his dog to run at large, but the charges were dismissed on July 8, 1970.

FENSTERWALD has a current credit rating of "Satisfactory."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

Information has been received from the following governmental agencies [redacted]

b3 per CIA

DEFENSE CENTRAL INDEX OF INVESTIGATIONS,
Baltimore, Maryland;
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT,
Boyers, Pennsylvania;
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY,
Langley, Virginia.

The central files of the FBI, including the records of the Identification Division and appropriate computer data bases, were checked and contained the following information concerning BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR., and [redacted]

b6 per FBI
b7C

FBI records revealed numerous FOIPA requests have been initiated by FENSTERWALD with the majority of these requests concerning the investigations surrounding the assassination of prominent individuals. He was identified as a member of an organization called the COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS, INCORPORATED. While on this Committee, FENSTERWALD and a woman named [redacted] made contact in Dallas with witnesses and others who might be knowledgeable about the JOHN F. KENNEDY assassination. FENSTERWALD represented himself as acting on behalf of this Committee and created the impression he and his group were anxious to find some new evidence or statements that would tend to contradict the conclusion of the WARREN COMMISSION.

b6 per FBI
b7C

FBI records further revealed that FENSTERWALD was instrumental in initiating and continuing an investigation into an alleged wiretapping by the FBI of congressional offices.

It was also disclosed that [redacted]

b6 per FBI
b7C
b7E

Through interviews of a confidential source, it was determined that BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR., was a lawyer and [redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

[redacted] b6 per FBI
[redacted] b7C
[redacted] b7E

It should be noted that FENSTERWALD was an attorney for JAMES EARL RAY for a short period of time prior to Ray's escape from prison. FENSTERWALD appears to be interested in political assassinations and has written a book, title unknown, on the subject. (R)U

Enclosure

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~